

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A transferring apparatus for transferring an article to be processed, which is carried by a carrier device, to a holder provided in a processing chamber defined by a processing vessel and adapted to hold the article at a specified processing position, comprising:

a ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member switchable between a ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position of receiving the article carried by the carrier device at an intermediate position near the holder from the carrier device and temporarily holding the article and a retracted position of resting ~~in an~~ outside of the processing vessel;

a position switcher provided outside of the processing chamber for switching the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member between the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position and the retracted position; and

a relatively movable carrier for relatively moving the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member and the holder such that the article temporarily held by the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member at the intermediate position is transferred to the processing position.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A transferring apparatus according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member is so mounted on the processing vessel as to be movable relative to the holder and switchingly movable between the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position and the retracted position.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A transferring apparatus according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member includes a rotatable shaft rotatably mounted on the processing vessel about its own longitudinal direction and a ~~temporarily~~ temporary-holding-member main body fixed to an end of the rotatable shaft in such a posture as to project outward from the rotatable shaft, and the position switcher switches the position of the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member to the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position where the ~~temporarily~~ temporary-holding-member main body temporarily holds the article and to the retracted position retracted from the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position by rotating the rotatable shaft.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A transferring apparatus according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member includes an article holding portion for supporting the article from below at the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position and is movable toward the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position in a horizontal direction or an obliquely upward direction.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A transferring apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member is ~~locally~~ formed with a portion having a reduced smaller thickness relative to another portion of the temporary holding member, and the article supporting portion is defined within this thinned portion.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A transferring apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member includes a stepped portion having an upper surface lower than that of the other part of the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member

and shaped in conformity with the outer shape of the article, and the stepped portion serves as the article supporting portion.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A transferring apparatus according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein a plurality of ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding members are located at positions arranged along an outer periphery of the article, and hold an outer peripheral portion of the article at the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding positions thereof, and are retracted to the retracted positions located more outward than the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding positions.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus, comprising:
a processing vessel formed with a processing chamber inside,
a holder provided in the processing chamber and adapted to hold the article at a specified processing position, and
a transferring apparatus for transferring the article carried by a carrier device to the processing position,

wherein the transferring apparatus includes:
a ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member switchable between a ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position of receiving the article carried by the carrier device at an intermediate position near the holder from the carrier device and temporarily holding the article and a retracted position of resting ~~in an~~ outside of the processing vessel;

a position switcher provided outside of the processing chamber for switching the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member between the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position and the retracted position; and

a relatively movable carrier for relatively moving the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member and the holder such that the article temporarily held by the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member at the intermediate position is transferred to the processing position.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member is so mounted on the processing vessel as to be movable relative to the holder.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member is so mounted on the processing vessel as to be movable relative to the holder and as to be switchingly movable between the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding position and the retracted position.

Claim 13 (Original): A processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:
the processing vessel includes a first vessel member having the holder and a second vessel member having such a shape as to cover the holder of the first vessel member,
the two vessel members can be opened and closed between a united position where they are united with each other so that the second vessel member covers the holder and defines the processing chamber together with the first vessel member and separated positions where the two vessel members are separated to expose the holder to the outside, and
the transferring apparatus transfers the article from the intermediate position to the holder with the two vessel members located at the separated positions.

Claim 14 (Original): A processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein opening and closing directions of the two vessel members coincide with directions in which the article

temporarily held by the holder is carried between the intermediate position and the retracted position, and the article is carried between the intermediate position and the retracted position as the two vessel members are opened and closed.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member is so mounted on the second vessel member as to be movable together with the second vessel member, temporarily holds the article at the intermediate positions with the two vessel members located at the separated positions, and transfers the article from the intermediate position to the processing position as the two vessel members are moved toward the united position in this ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding state.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

- the second vessel member is arranged above the first vessel member,
- the two vessel members are united and separated by being vertically moved relative to each other,
- the intermediate position is set right above the holder on the first vessel member, and
- the article is transferred between the intermediate position and the processing position by upward and downward movements of the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member relative to the holder.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member includes an article supporting portion for supporting the article from below at the intermediate position.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the transferring apparatus includes an article supporting portion for supporting the article from below during the carriage of the article and the thickness of the article supporting portion of the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding member is smaller than that of the article supporting portion of the carrier device.

Claim 19 (Original): A processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the holder includes a supporting projection projecting upward from a main body of the holder to locally support a specific part of the article from below, and a projecting distance of the supporting projection is set such that a clearance larger than the thickness of the article supporting portion is defined between the bottom surface of the other part of the article and the main body of the holder with the bottom surface of the article locally held in contact with the supporting projection.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a plurality of ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding members are located at positions arranged along an outer periphery of the article, and hold an outer peripheral portion of the article at the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding positions thereof and are retracted to the retracted positions located more outward than the ~~temporarily~~ temporary holding positions and located outside the vessel members when the two vessel members are united.